



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 28, 2010

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**District Woman Convicted of Stabbing
Her Boyfriend in the Heart With Scissors
– Victim Walked 15 Blocks to Hospital, Where He Received Open Heart Surgery–**

WASHINGTON - Teresa Walker, 45, was convicted by a jury this week of aggravated assault while armed in an attack on her boyfriend in which she stabbed him in the heart, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

The guilty verdict was returned Monday in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg, who presided over the trial, scheduled sentencing for January 6, 2010. Walker faces a period of five to 11 years incarceration under the District of Columbia voluntary sentencing guidelines.

According to the government's evidence, on September 15, 2008, Walker was in her apartment, in the 1200 block of M Street NW, with the victim, who was preparing for a job interview that afternoon. The victim asked Walker for cigarettes and also asked her who was sitting at the security desk. This sparked an argument, and the victim told the defendant that he was leaving her and not coming back. Walker then grabbed a pair of scissors off the floor and plunged them into the victim's chest, puncturing the right ventricle of his heart.

The victim, who did not realize the extent of his injuries, walked approximately 15 blocks to Howard University Hospital, where he received a life-saving operation to close the puncture wound in his heart. Walker was worried about the victim and called the police to find and check on him. At that time, she said that she stabbed the victim because he was poking her in the nose. At trial, Walker claimed to have acted in self-defense, but the government proved that her act of nearly fatally stabbing the victim was an unreasonable response to being poked in the nose.

In announcing the verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Officers Richard Hall and Melvin Evans, as well as Detective Shelly Anderson. U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his appreciation to legal assistant Charmonique Price, paralegal Jason Manuel, Victim Advocate Shauna Moore, Assistant U.S. Attorney

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Cassidy Pinegar, who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bridget Fitzpatrick, who tried the case.

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